

IN THE CLAIMS

B₁ 1. (Currently amended) Method for the inspection of ~~objects, such as~~ cigarette packs, with respect to the proper positioning of blanks placed on them, ~~such as labels, in particular for inspecting the proper arrangement of band strips on cigarette packs,~~ with the objects each cigarette pack being moved past an inspection means and illuminated by one or more illuminating means in the region of the inspection means and with the correct positioning of the blank thereon being identified being determined on the basis of the border edges of the blank, wherein the blank is and with the blank being illuminated laterally at one or more of its border edges while ~~the inspection means scans the blank from an essentially frontal aspect, wherein the main line of sight of the inspection means is directed towards a region of the blank located on the end face of the cigarette pack and the illumination means illuminates the border edges of the blank in the region of the end face of the cigarette pack so that identification of the blank border edges can occur at low contrast levels between the blank and the end face.~~

2. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein when an object has reached an inspection position, a trigger sensor generates a trigger signal which turns on the illumination means and/or causes a snapshot of the ~~object~~ cigarette pack to be made by the inspection means.

3. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of evaluation windows within the image captured by the inspection means during the snapshot are evaluated for differences in brightness in order to obtain precise positions of the border edges, with the evaluation windows being selected in the region of the expected border edge positions and/or in the region of a reference position of a pocket for receiving an ~~object~~ the cigarette pack.

4. (Cancelled) ~~Method according to Claim 1, wherein the width as well as the position of a band strip are evaluated with respect to its centered position relative to the pack and/or to any skewed position.~~

B₂ 5. (Currently amended) Apparatus for the inspection of ~~objects, such as~~ cigarette packs, with respect to the proper positioning of blanks placed on them, ~~such as labels, in particular for inspecting the proper arrangement of band strips on cigarette packs,~~ with an inspection means and one or more illumination means in the region of a conveying path of the packs ~~objects~~, with

the inspection means identifying the positioning of a blank on a pack on the basis of border edges of the blank wherein the main direction of illumination of each illumination means is directed at one or more border edges of a blank arranged on an end face of the cigarette pack and the main line of sight of the inspection means is directed at the end face of the cigarette pack blanks at an essentially a frontal aspect to provide identification of the blank edges.

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6. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein each main direction of illumination assumes an angle of 45° to 90°, in particular 70° to 80°, to the main line of sight.

7. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the illumination means have bright white-light diodes.

8. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the illumination means can be turned on and off in pulsed-mode operation.

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9. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising a trigger sensor for detecting an inspection position of an object the cigarette pack and for generating a trigger signal for turning on the illumination means and/or for generating a snapshot of an object] the cigarette pack in the inspection position.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the inspection means has an electronic camera, in particular a CCD camera, and that predetermined areas, in particular evaluation windows, can be selected within the image captured by the camera and evaluated for differences in brightness.

11. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein at least two evaluation windows are directed at the border edges of a blank and that in particular a further at least one additional evaluation window is directed at a reference position of a pocket for receiving an object the cigarette pack.

12. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising an arrangement in the region of an open pocket end of a turret, in particular of the drying turret, of a cigarette packer and/or in the region of a faulty pack conveyor for the elimination of any faulty